

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

1. At page 4, under the heading "I. Accessory Mounting Bracket", replace the last full paragraph beginning at line 17, as follows:

Referring to Fig. 3, the accessory mounting bracket 70 preferably has a structure to which an accessory can be readily mounted. In the depicted embodiment, the accessory mounting bracket 70 includes a platform or a plate 73 having a front side 75 to which an accessory such as cup holder, a fish locator, a rod holder, a cellular phone holder, a global positioning device, bimini top bracket or any other accessory can be mounted. Fig. 3 shows a cup holder 50 mounted to the plate 73 by fasteners such as screws 100. In this embodiment, the cup holder accessory includes a flange or base 120 for readily allowing the accessory to be fastened to the plate 73 by screws 100 or other types of fasteners such as bolts, clips, rivets, etc. It will be appreciated that the other accessories can include similar types of bases, flanges or plates. In other embodiments, the accessories can be secured to the accessory mounting bracket 70 by other types of fastening techniques such as Velcro VELCRO, a nylon fabric that can be fastened to itself, adhesive, snap fit connections, sliding interlock connections, or other connections. In still other embodiments, accessories may be provided integral with accessory mounting bracket 70.

2. At page 5, replace the full paragraph beginning at line 14, as follows:

Referring to Fig. 6, the channel 74 defined by the bracket 70 is elongated and extends along a length L_1 between first and second ends 210, 212. The first end 210 is preferably closed, and the second end can be opened and closed by a movable door 82. By opening the door 82, the connector 72 can be inserted into the channel 74 through the open end 212 of the channel 74. Once the connector 72 is positioned fully

within the channel 74, the door 82 can be closed to prevent the bracket 70 from being unintentionally removed from the connector 72. Both the interior region 76 and the through-slot 78 preferably extend from the first end 210 to the second end 212.

3. At page 5, replace the full paragraph beginning at line 27, as follows:

The through-slot 78 is defined through a back wall 220 of the accessory mounting bracket 70. As shown in Fig. 3, the exterior, back side 221 of the back wall 220 is adapted to face towards and abut against the track 34 when the bracket 70 is secured to the track 34. As shown in Fig. 6, the back wall 220 has a thickness- T measured in the direction of the depth $d1$. The thickness T preferably gradually increases as the back wall 220 extends from the second end 212 to the first end 210 of the channel 74. In one embodiment, the wall 220 has a thickness $t1$ of about .1719 inches adjacent the second end 212 of the channel 74 and a thickness $t2$ of about .1869 inches adjacent the first end 210 of the channel 74. The taper of the back wall 220 provides a ramp-like configuration that functions as a cam for forcing the back side 221 of the wall 220 against the track 34 as the connector 72 is slid into the channel 74. In this manner, the camming action of the ramp causes the back side 221 of the wall 220 to be pulled tightly against or clamped against the exterior of the track 34 as the accessory mount 70 is slid over the connector 72. By pulling the accessory mount 70 tightly against the exterior of the track 34, the accessory mount can be effectively locked into place and vibration or other movement of the bracket 70 can be prevented. In alternative embodiments, a similar clamping action can be provided by providing a ramp or cam surface on the second flange structure 92 of the connector 72, or by varying the distance/depth between the flanges 90, 92.

4. At page 7, replace the full paragraph beginning at line 19, as follows:

Referring to Fig. 7, the second flange 92 has rounded corners 300 ~~301~~ to facilitate inserting the second flange 92 into the channel 74 of the bracket 70. As shown in Figs. 8 and 9, the ends of the second flange 92 also include ramps 302 to further facilitate inserting the second flange 92 into the channel 74 of the bracket 70.